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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Trump stumps for roads, bridges

President promotes infrastructure plan during visit to Ohio

By Jim Provance
Block News Alliance

RICHFIELD, Ohio — With earthmovers, hard hats and American flags as backdrops, President Donald Trump on Thursday urged Congress to enact what he bills as the biggest investment in the nation's roads, bridges and pipelines that the country has seen in a half-century.

"Anything we can dream, we can build," he said. "You will create the new highways, the new dams and skyscrapers that will become lasting monuments to America's strength and continuing greatness."

This marked Mr. Trump's second visit to Ohio in less than a year to promote what the administration touts as a $1.5 trillion, 10-year public-private investment to replace and build new infrastructure, saying it's America's turn to be a "developing country."

"As far as I'm concerned, we're developing," he said. "Pay us some money. … We're going to invest in our workers and improving our

SEE **TRUMP**, PAGE A-2

KINDNESS & HUMILITY

Stephanie Strasburg/Post-Gazette

Bishop David Zubik washes and kisses the feet of inmate Robert Springer, 28, as part of a Holy Thursday Mass he presided over for inmates at the Allegheny County Jail. "It was awesome, it will be a Mass I ain't ever going to forget," said inmate Vernon Belinsky, 53. "Just the feeling of love in the air, togetherness. This don't happen. This don't happen in jail." In a deed recounted by the Gospels, Jesus washed the feet of his Apostles.

City police department adapts as force shifts toward less-experienced officers

Better pay lures veteran cops to suburbs

By Shelly Bradbury
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh police Detective Donald Pasquarelli never thought about retiring, even as he approached age 65 and faced a mandatory boot from the force.

Twenty-five years on the job and he still enjoyed coming to work in Zone 4, solving cases, making arrests and dispatching advice to younger officers. Retiring just didn't cross his mind. Then in February, in what some city officials described as a bid to keep experienced officers on the force, city council raised the mandatory retirement age to 70. And Detective Pasquarelli suddenly has five more years — if he wants them. Which he might.

"I like having the option," he said.

During the past five years, Pittsburgh's police roster has shifted toward less-experienced officers, city rosters from

SEE **POLICE**, PAGE A-3

FirstEnergy moves toward closing Beaver nuclear plant

Firm seeks federal emergency action

By Laura Legere
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A day after FirstEnergy Solutions announced plans to close the Beaver Valley Power Station in Shippingport and two nuclear plants in Ohio, the company asked the federal government to take emergency action to save those plants and most of the region's other coal and nuclear power stations from early retirement.

The company — a competitive generation subsidiary of Akron, Ohio-based FirstEnergy Corp. — is seeking a rescue amid punishing competition in electricity markets from low-cost natural gas and renewable energy sources.

Those forces are pushing out of service the old backbone of the power grid — coal-fired and nuclear plants that can't react quickly to changes in electricity demand and so keep running at times when they can't make a profit. The company says a wave of closures could threaten the reliability of the regional grid.

It filed for an emergency order under the Federal Power Act on Thursday, asking U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry to direct the regional grid operator PJM Interconnection to sign contracts guaranteeing most of the region's nuclear and coal-fired power plants full

SEE **NUCLEAR**, PAGE A-6

Russia to expel 150 diplomats in global spat

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia announced the expulsion of more than 150 diplomats, including 60 Americans, on Thursday and said it was closing a U.S. consulate in retaliation for the wave of Western expulsions of Russian diplomats over the poisoning of an ex-spy and his daughter in Britain, a tit-for-tat response that intensified the Kremlin's rupture with the United States and Europe.

The Russian move came as a hospital treating Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, said the woman was improving rapidly and was now in stable condition, though her father remained in critical condition.

The Skripals were found unconscious and critically ill in the

SEE **RUSSIA**, PAGE A-4

Darrell Sapp/Post-Gazette

READY FOR OPENING DAY Jody Seibert of North Huntingdon applies a promotional decal above the ticket windows Thursday at PNC Park on the North Shore. Pitcher Jameson Taillon, shown on the display, will start the home opener for the Pirates on Monday.

Rival Korean leaders to discuss nuclear disarmament in historic summit

The Associated Press

PAJU, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a border village on April 27, the South announced Thursday, for a rare summit that could prove significant in global efforts to resolve the decades-long standoff over the North's nuclear program.

The announcement was made after officials of the two countries met at the border village of Panmunjom.

Next month's summit is a precursor to a potential meeting — possibly by the end of May — between Mr. Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump, who on Thursday threatened to "hold up" the trade agreement his administration finalized with South Korea this week in an effort to gain more leverage in potential talks with

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Cool with morning rain. Daytime high 42, tonight's low 28.
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